REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 3 and 4 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 16 are canceled by this amendment.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, Applicants have rewritten claim 3 in independent form, thereby placing this claim in condition for allowance. Claim 4 depends from claim 3 and is therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oesterholt (U.S.6,130,514) in view of Park et al. (U.S. 5,731,375). As noted above, claims 1, 2 and 16 have been canceled by this amendment, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone

interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Osamu ICHIKAWA

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

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